

# GOVERNMENT ACRONYMS

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# GOVERNMENT ACRONYMS

One of the single most difficult problems facing people who enter into business with the government is that the government utilizes acronyms in so many ways. In essence it is a short hand to quickly describe an item, agency, law, regulation, or any other element that cuts across the government. This "language "is not unlike the languages used in any other profession. Medical jargon and legalese may sound foreign to those of us who do not possess a medical or law degree; but it's fast, accurate, and convenient for doctors and lawyers. The same situation applies to the government.

A few of the common acronyms and definitions for the government food business are indicated below. This listing will be expanded over time as we search out the acronyms that affect you. If there is a situation where you hear or read of an acronym that mystifies you please contact Research & Development Associates for Military Food & Packaging Systems, Inc. (R&DA) (notice the proper way to introduce an acronym) at 210-493-8024.

- AAFES: Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Headquartered in Dallas, AAFES is the resale operator for military service members, family and retired personnel. AAFES operates post exchange, liquor sales, gas stations, food courts, etc.
- AAN: The Army After Next. A term to refer to a notional unit of what the Army will be like in the years 2025 and beyond. Combat developers use this term in their design of tactics, equipment, and soldier performance in the out-years
- ACES: Army Center for Excellence, Subsistence. Located at Ft. Lee VA and responsible for all Army food activities.
- AFMIS: Army Food Management Information System. The automated system used to manage financial matters in dining halls
- ALT: Administrative lead time
- AMC: Army Material Command located in Washington, DC area which purchases equipment for the military
- AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service. A critical element of the US Department of Agriculture.
- AOR: Area of Operations. Similar to a Theater of Operations and defined as a geographical area where military operations are conducted
- APOD: Airport of Debarkment
- APOE: Airport of Embarkment
- Appropriated

- Funds: Monies set aside by Congress for payment of such things as civilian pay, travel, etc
- AQL: Acceptable Quality Limit: A performance standard indicating what percentage of an item/service must be in total compliance with detailed description of an end product.
- A Ration or ARAT: A meal or group of meals fed to fighting forces where all components are fresh or perishable in nature. Similar to the foods found in anyone's home to include refrigerated foods.
- ASTM: American Society for Testing and Materials. An organization who establishes standards of quality and performance in all areas.
- BAA: Broad Agency Announcement. A method used by the government to solicit interest or responses to solicitations that may lead to a contracting situation. Usually this type goes to all possible parties and is printed in the Commerce Business Daily to ensure the widest of exposure
- BAFO: Best and Final Offer
- BDFA: Basic Daily Food Allowance. A compilation of food item prices to feed a service member. It is used by dining halls as the cost of each meal served.
- BDO: Blank Delivery Order (DeCA) A simple contractual procurement method to fill repetitive requirements for items covered in an existing contract
- BSM: Business System Modernization. This is the effort by DSCP to totally revise its business software
- Book Inventory: The dollar value of assets on hand at any given time as determined from accounting records kept in connection with day-to-day business
- BPA: Blanket Purchase Agreement: A simple procurement to fill repetitive requirements for quantities of brand name and non-brandname items or services which are not covered by an existing contract, and which are required for a specific period of time
- B RATION or BRAT: A meal or group of meals to feed fighting forces comprised of components with extended shelf life characteristics which require no refrigeration. Most items are canned or bulk packed with shelf life which exceeds 18 months.
- BY: Budget Year. The government projects research and develop and projects in future years called BY
- CBU: Commodity Business Unit. An organizational approach where all elements which affect an end product are grouped together.
- CDC: Center for Disease Control, Atlanta GA

- CFE: Contractor Furnished Equipment. The government would expect any contractor to supply the elements specified under this term.
- CFM: Contractor Furnished Materials. The government would expect a contractor to provide specific materials in a contract.
- CID: Commercial Item Description. A desired product that corresponds to the formula and end product characteristics of the commercial market. For instance a cookie similar to an OREO.
- CINC: Commander in Chief. The senior military leader of a major organization, usually a senior general or admiral commanding all forces in a large geographical area.
- COTS: Commercial Off the Shelf. This refers to the use of items purchased outside of the government but used for military requirements
- CY: Calendar Year
- CLASS I: Government supplies are listed under ten groupings or classes. Class I is food and related items.
- CLASS SIX: Military liquor/party stores. Also known (especially in the Navy) as a package store
- CO: (1) Central Office (VCS) (2) Container (DPSC) (3) Commanding Office (4) Contracting Officer (5) Contract Officer (6) Commissary Officer (DeCA)
- COB: Close of Business
- CONUS: The area of the Continental United States. US force are located in CONUS or outside of the US which is referred to as OCONUS or outside of the continental United States.
- COR: Contracting Officer's Representative. This is an individual with special training, legal responsibility and knowledge to work on all aspects of government contracts with individuals and companies.
- CORANET: Combat Rations Network. An organization made up of academic, government, and industry partners who evaluate manufacturing technologies and apply these to food and related items to lead to reduced cost, improved quality, and/or faster mobilization production
- COTR: Contracting Officer's Technical Representative
- CRADA: Cooperative Research and Development Agreement. An arrangement between the government and industry or universities to produce a study which will benefit both the government and the research element. Each CRADA is unique.
- CS: Chief of Staff

- CSA: Chief of Staff of the Army. The senior most military officer (four star general) in the Army
- CWO Chief Warrant Officer
- DA: Department of the Army
- DCAA: Defense Contract Audit Agency
- DCSLOG: Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. The Army staff director (three star general) responsible for supply and transportation planning and policies
- DD (1) Defense Depot (2) Direct Delivery AAFES (3) Daily Delivery
- D-DAY: The first day of a military operation. A single military operation is controlled by military times which is based upon D-DAY with a number, such as D-DAY plus 30. This would be 30 days after the initial day of the operation.
- DECA: The Defense Commissary System. A Department of Defense organization with responsibility to operate the military's commercial food resale stores, which are similar to chain stores, such as SAFEWAY.
- DFAR: Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation
- DFARS: Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement
- DFAS: Defense Finance & Accounting Service
- DSCR: Defense Supply Center located in Richmond VA. DGSC's actions include the listing, recommendations, procurement and stockage of food and food preparation equipment.
- DISREP: Discrepancy in Shipment Report
- DLA: The Defense Logistics Agency location at Fort Belvoir, VA. DLA is the Department of Defense's wholesale level procurer of goods and services. It also maintains and controls inventory for delivery to all military services and numerous federal agencies.
- DoD or DOD: Department of Defense
- DODAAC: Department of Defense Activity Address Code: A unique six-digit alphanumeric code number assigned to each Department of Defense activity, including each commissary. Designates a mailing, ship-to and billing address. Used for accounting purposes.
- DSCP: The Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia, PA. DSCP is an element of DLA and controls all procurement of food, medicine and clothing. The major player in the food area!
- DSCP-H: The H after DSCP indicates a sub address of DSCP. In this case the H

is the code for the Director of Subsistence. Almost all Headquarters will use letters after their acronym to signify an office within the headquarters.

- DoD: The Department of Defense.
- DOS: A day of supply. Equivalent to the needs of a specific number of forces to sustain itself for one day. For example in a military operation it is desirable to have 30 days of supply of food available. This would be reflected as 30 DOS.
- DSO: Defense Supply Office. A geographical office with responsibility to purchase specific items for the government. Normally the purchases are for fresh fruits and vegetables and highly perishable products.
- DVD: Direct Vendor Delivery
- E-BUSINESS: Electronic Business. Using the internet to conduct all business e-commerce Electronic Commerce. This is the use of the internet to conduct business with the government. A full replacement of the mail service to determine requirements, award contracts, confirm deliveries, make payments, etc.
- EDI: Electronic Data Interchange-Computer to computer exchange of business information
- EOM: End of Month
- ERGO Energy Rich Glucose Optimized. A drink which has properties to reduce the effects of fatigue in warfighters. ERGO is provided when great physical and/or emotional stress will face a combat unit. The drink speeds up the body's recovery time.\
- FAR: The Federal Acquisition Regulation. A legal compendium of rules and regulations affecting all elements of federal purchases and contracting.
- FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency
- FF&V: Fresh fruits and vegetables.
- FIFO: First-In, First-Out
- FOB: Free On Board: Means that a vendor will deliver merchandise without charge
- FRH: Flameless Ration Heater. A device included with the MRE which allows the entree to be heated prior to consumption
- FSC: (Federal Supply Class (DSCP) (2) Federal Supply Code
- FSIS: Federal Subsistence Inspection Service. An element of USDA who has oversight over the production of food items for the federal government.
- FSR: First Strike Ration: Part of the Vision 2025 Concept to design a supplement

to the MRE that provides enhancements to maximize soldiers' performance in combat

- FY: Fiscal Year. The government's fiscal year is 1 October to 30 September
- GAO: The General Accounting Office. The investigative and study arm of Congress.
- GBL: Government Bill of Lading
- GFE: Government Furnished Equipment. In contracting GFE clauses will indicate what equipment will be provided by the government to assist in the performance of a contract.
- GFM: Government Furnished Material. This is a specific listing of items and material that the government will furnish a contractor.
- HACCP: Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point. In the larger context HACCP is a system to improve processing, quality, methods or practices by identifying those aspects which require special attention. There are also specific HACCP programs.
- HDR: Humanitarian Daily Ration. A ration designed specifically to provide food items to starving populations.
- HFFS: Horizontal Form Fill Seal machines. These are commercially available equipment used in the rations process to prepare food items
- HPC: Health and Comfort Pack. An unit of support items of a health and beauty type nature issued to fighting forces when they are not located near a resale activity. HCP includes items such as shaving cream, razors, sanitary napkins, etc.

HPM: Humanitarian Pouched Meal: A meal in a MRE type pouch with enough food to meet the needs of an individual who has been subjected to food shortages.

HOOAH: The name comes from military combat forces who express satisfaction by uttering "HooAh". This name has been applied to a government developed nutritional food bar that provides nutrients and increases energy

HQ: Headquarters

HQDA: Headquarters Department of the Army located in the Pentagon.

IAW: In Accordance With. A short hand method they refer to a regulation, guide or law. The contract was IAW existing procurement practices.

IBEX: Industrial Base Extension concept. This is an effort to locate and to track subsistence

capabilities to augment US companies in time of war if required

IBP: Industrial Base Program. A program which measures commercial capability against military wartime requirements to ensure that required support can be provided in times of conflict

IDTC: Indefinite Delivery Type Contract (DPSC) A formal contract which calls for deliveries of products (generally specification meats, eggs, dairy and bakery products) for a stated period of time

IM: Inventory Manager (DPSC)

IPT: Integrated Process Team. A group of individuals joined together to resolve issues on a limited area or scope. This group meets and focuses on a specific topic or problem until the critical issues are resolved

IQC: Indefinite Quantity Contract (DPSC) A formal contract which calls for deliveries of products within a stated quantity range

JCS: The Joint Chiefs of Staff.

JP-8: Jet-Petroleum Eight: Aviation type gas used on the battlefield

JSORF: Joint Subsistence Operational Rations Forum. A meeting attended by government personnel and organizations who focus their efforts on all

issues dealing with combat rations

JTF: Joint Task Force. A grouping of military forces organized specifically for a single purpose or mission. When the mission is over the units return to their normal headquarters.

KO Contracting Officer. The KO was used instead of CO which was already in the government usage and referred to Commanding Officer

Line Item: Any item which carries a separate stock number or is otherwise individually identified for

ordering, storing, processing, or other handling purposes

MACOM: Major Command. A major military headquarters normally commanded by a senior general or admiral.

MBU: Modern Burner Unit. A heating device replacing the current burner unit used by food personnel to heat water for sanitation and other purposes. The MBU is more safe to use and utilizes different types of fuel making it more compatible.

MCB: Marine Corps Base

MCW: Meal Cold Weather. This is a ration specifically designed to meet war fighters needs in severe weather conditions

MARPOL: Marine Pollution Plastic Research and Control Act. This act prohibits the

disposal of plastics and other waste products into oceans and waterways. Therefore the packaging of foods for Navy ships and vessels must be different than normal food packaging.

MDRA: Military Recommended Dietary Allowances: These are military nutritional standards to meet requirements to perform without serious degradation Multi-Faith Meal. A designed food package which meets the needs of Muslim and Kosher laws and guidance.

MFR: Memorandum for the Record

Mil-STD Military Standard

MIL-VAN Military Van

MKT: Mobile Kitchen Trailer. A complete kitchen and cooking operation which is trailer mounted and designed to prepare food items in the field environment.

MILSPEC: Military Specification. A detailed description of an item desired for purchase.

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding. This is an agreement between two organizations that outlines individual responsibilities on a specific area of concern or operation

MRE: Meal Ready To Eat. An operational ration which evolved from the World War II K ration and Vietnam C ration. An individual pouched meal.

MULD: Multi-Unit Leak Detector. Equipment which validates the seal areas of retorted rations

MRO: (1) Materiel Release Order (DPSC); (2) Material Requisition Order (DPSC)

MWR: Morale, Welfare, and Recreation. A MWR activity is a self supporting operation on a government installation. In the food areas these would include officers, enlisted and NCO club operations, snack bars and food outlets.

NAF: Non Appropriated Funds. On military bases there are functions that operate similar to a commercial business. They receive NO budget funds from the military and operate based upon income received for their services. Officers clubs, bowling alleys, snack bars, and theaters are usually non-appropriated fund operations.

NAPA: National Allowance Pricing Agreement. A contract between the supplier of a food item and the government to offer lower prices to users of the product

NAVRESSO: Navy Resale and Services Support Office

NCO: Non-Commissioned Officer

NET: Not Earlier Than

NEXCOM: Navy Exchange Command. This is the Navy's operation of AFFES type facilities which provide food, clothing, entertainment and related services on a Navy

installation.

NIS: Not in Stock: a regularly-stocked item temporarily not available for customer purchase

NISH: National Industries for the Severely Handicapped

NLT: Not Later Than

Notice to the

trade: A written communication from a resale agency to its industry partners. Contains items of interest that are likely to affect their mutual business relationship

NRDEC: Natick Research Development and Engineering Center. The location where all subsistence research and development is conducted.

NDI: Non-developmental item. A commercially available item which has potential use by the government. The non-development aspect indicates that the item was not developed by the government.

NSN: National Stock Number (DoD) The Defense Department requires this numbering system which is used to identify every product within the DoD supply system. This number is different from the OPC number. The NSN is made up of thirteen digits in this sequence: XXXX-XX-XXX-XXXX.

Objective

Force 2025: A planning force used to determine future requirements

OCONUS: Outside of the United States. All locations not under the continental (48 states) area of the US

ODCSLOG: Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. The senior Department of the Army supply operator.

OED: Operation Enduring Freedom

OFIG: Operational Forces Integration Group. An element at NATICK who coordinates with the services to evaluate food items, conduct research, and test new equipment and rations

O/H: On Hand. Shorthand to indicate the quantity of an item which is currently in inventory.

ODS: Operation Desert Storm.

PAT: Process Action Team-A working group within a TQM environment

PCR: Performance-based Contract Requirements. The PCR was developed instead of MILSPECS and CIDs to identify by chemical, physical, and appearance factors the items

the government wants to purchase

PDM Product demonstration model. Used in procurement to allow a few samples to be produced and approved prior to large scale production

POC: (1) Point of Contact

Poly Tray: A half steam table size, lightweight food tray to hold retorted food products to feed military in several situations by group feeding methods

Prime Vendor: A concept where the government contracts to a single company a comprehensive function formally performed by the government. In subsistence this would equate to a commercial firm supplying food items to dining halls and installations on a geographical area replacing the government depots who previously performed the task.

PV: Prime Vendor

PWS: Performance Work Statement: A document describing the requirements and standards for the services being acquired

QA: Quality Assurance. A standard or inspection where the quality elements are measured or evaluated.

QAPKG: Quality Assurance Provisions and Packaging Requirements. These establish standards that the government requires in offered items in the quality program and packaging areas. An integral element of contracting

QDMS: Quality Data Management System: A web based system used by ration manufacturers, USDA, and other governmental agencies to track all quality related issues of all lots produced.

QMS: Quartermaster School at Ft. Lee VA.

QS: Quality Summit. An annual R&DA sponsored meeting dealing with all quality issues in food support to military customers

QTY: Quantity

RCW: Ration Cold Weather. A subsistence item designed to support personnel operating in extremely cold environments and flexible enough for individual feeding in this situation

RFP: Request for Proposal: An element of the contracting regulations where the government is asking for a response to a specific requirement. All of these also specify the method, manner and time frames for response.

SB: Supply Bulletin

SBA: Small Business Administration

SBCCOM: Soldier Biological Chemical Command. This is the headquarters to which Natick personnel are assigned.

SCOE: Soldier Center of Excellence. This is the organization where the Natick food and related area experts are assigned.

SCR Subsistence contract requirements. Used by DSCP to identify characteristics of products to be purchased

SECDEF: Secretary of Defense

SF: Standard Form

SHIM: Self Heated Individual Meal. A feeding concept where an individual is provided a complete and portable meal with the added feature of heating the meal by activating a chemical agent.

SOFA: Status of Forces Agreement: Negotiated agreement between the United States and a foreign nation. Covers conduct of troops, shopping privileges, etc.

SPA: Small Purchase Agreement. A type of government contract where the total dollar value of the contract is less than a specific amount. Usually less than \$25,000 worth of goods and/or services.

SPIDERS: Subsistence Planning Integrated Data Enterprise Readiness System. A web based management system linking industry and government in an interactive environment on war time issues

SPV: Subsistence Prime Vendor

STRAT-PAC: Strategic pack of rations. Within a twenty-foot container food is configured by type and meal, so that the items towards the door are the first to be needed. A typical Strat- pack will contain breakfast, lunch, and dinner meals made up of UGR, MRE, and Tray- packs.

TDY: Temporary duty

TISA: Troop Issue Subsistence Activity

TL: Truck Load

TMO: Terminal Market Office (DPSC) A regional office which provides fresh fruits and vegetables to commissaries, dining halls and public school systems

TOTM: Tailored Operational Training Meal. For use by non-active military forces, a meal that provides adequate nutrition in a shelf stable individual feeding situation

TQM: Total Quality Management. A process where the objective is to alter procedures based upon multi input to provide a more efficient, better and /or less costly product.

TRAT or tray ration: A half steam table sized food concept capable of feeding 12-24

soldiers per tray in a combat environment. Food items are shelf stable and can be heated via hot water.

TTI: Time Temperature Indicators. Devices which react to the effects of both time and temperature as they affect stored items.

Troop Issue: A class of military food stuffs which are primarily packaged for food service facilities. They are purchased through the DPSC using government defined specifications.

UGR: United Group Ration. A recent feeding concept where adequate components to cook a complete meal for 50 members is unitized on a single standard pallet. Several UGR's (depending on type) are shipped on standard pallets.

UGR-A Unitized Group Ration with an entree of a perishable product. This item has an extremely short shelf life since field units do not possess refrigeration

UGR-H/S Unitized Group Ration with a non-perishable entree such as a tray ration or dehydrated

ration

USAR: U.S. Army Reserves

USARIEM US Army Institute of Environmental Medicine. Located with Natick, USARIEM conducts research and studies on all elements of medicine that affect a war fighter

USCG: United States Coast Guard

USCGC: United States Coast Guard Cutter

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture.

USAREUR: US Army Europe. Headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany

USMC: United States Marine Corps.

USN: United States Navy.

VAMC: Veterans Administration Medical Center

VCS: Veterans Canteen Service

VETCOM: Veterinary Command. Located in San Antonio Texas and responsibilities include the inspection of all food products entering the government supply chain.

VISION 2025 A leadership guidance document that leads to modernization and reorganization

VMRE Vegetarian MRE. VMRE's were developed to accommodate religious needs of military personnel who are prohibited from eating meat and related products

Warfighter A term used to refer to soldier, sailors, and airmen in their combat role

WHSE: Warehouse

WO: Warrant Officer

YTD: Year to Date